In December Dr. Sun announced his intention of seizing the Customs Revenues at Canton, maintaining that he was entitled to dispose of them as head of the Southern * Government.[11] Four years previously the Peking Government had agreed to allow Canton to retain 13.7 per cent, of the Customs surplus. But when Dr. Wu Ting-fang fled to Shanghai in the Spring of 1920 and claimed that the Canton share ought to be remitted to him there (and other claimants appeared in the field) this arrangement was cancelled. The American Government also let it be known that it disapproved of partitioning the Customs surplus among the Provinces. So when, in December, 1923, Dr. Sun announced bis intention of assuming control of the Canton Customs, the Treaty Powers were unanimous in resisting his pretensions, maintaining that the Customs revenues constituted security not only for the Boxer Indemnity, but for several previous Government loans, and that if one port were permitted to appropriate Customs revenues others would follow its bad example, and the Service would be disintegrated. Dr. Sun cabled to the British Labour Party to protest, and when he continued to bluster and threaten an international naval force assembled off Canton to protect the

Customs. Protests against any interference with the integrity of the Customs poured into Peking from Chinese mercantile organizations throughout the country, and eventually Dr. Sun deemed discretion to the better part of valour, and abandoned the attempt to seize the local Customs revenues.